

From: ejy@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe that the currently 'Proposed Final Judgment in United States v. Microsoft' is inadequate to end Microsoft's abusive monopoly on desktop computing. I am AGAINST it.

When I was a young boy I was taught that the US justice system was fair and sure. If you were caught doing something wrong, you could expect to be punished. Well, Microsoft has done something wrong, and they continue to do so. This is in the courts own finding of facts. They have created a situation where competition is bought up or ruthlessly destroyed. The settlement proposed allows many exclusionary practices, and thus the monopoly, to continue.

Also, I am deeply concerned that if this monopoly is allowed to continue that America's security is at risk. This is because there is only one target now on the desktop, Microsoft. And they have little incentive to improve their products (witness the many viruses successfully designed and deployed against Microsoft products).

I have 30 years of experience as an engineer, 20 of these are in software engineering. I routinely use Linux and Windows (NT, 98, 95) on desktop computers. Linux and it's applications are stable, and excellent. Windows and its applications fail on a regular basis. Something is badly out of balance if software that is free (\$0 acquisition cost) and of far better quality can't achieve widespread distribution (compete in the industry).

The root of Microsoft's monopoly is their ability to hold your data hostage via proprietary formats. These formats are changed as new software versions are brought out in ways which (greatly) encourage upgrading to the latest Microsoft software.

I would end the monopoly by liberating the world's data. Require that Microsoft publish their file formats, and live by them. This will allow other companies, and the free software world, to compete with Microsoft by creating more reliable and secure software which can read and write so called "standard" Microsoft formats.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter...